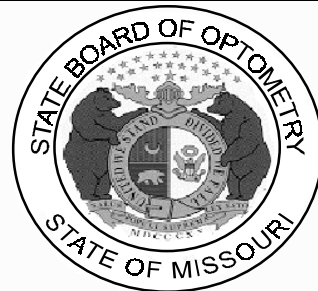


State Board of Optometry

Volume 9, Issue 1

August, 1999



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The Honorable Mel Carnahan

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Division of Professional Registration

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MISSOURI

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This is an official publication of the Division of Professional Registration. Submit articles to: State Board of Optometry, P.O. Box 1335, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

Board Member Re-Appointed

On August 17, 1998, Governor Mel Carnahan announced the reappointment of Dr. Karen B. Rosen to the Board of Optometry for a term ending June 30, 2003. Congratulations is extended to Dr. Rosen as well as many thanks for the previous 5 years of service to the Missouri State Board of Optometry.

Locate A Continuing Education Offering

The International Association of Boards of Examiners in Optometry, Inc. (IAB) has a new service called Optometry CE.org. This is an Internet service engine located at www.optometryce.org. It's purpose is to provide licensed optometrists with access to information about continuing education courses.

This is a free, interactive site. You can find a CE meeting quickly and efficiently. NO MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED. You can search for offerings by month or state. Access is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

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Message from the Executive Director

Many of you have already talked with me via the telephone but for those of you who have not, I became the Executive Director for the State Board of Optometry in July, 1998. Regulation is not new to me as I have been with this Department/Division since March, 1974. In my past, I have worked with the Board of Nursing, the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists and currently the Board of Optometry and the State Committee of Psychologists.

My goal is to provide the best service I can provide to my customers. Every licensed optometrist is a customer and every potential optometrist is a customer of this office. We are reviewing our forms and our procedures and revising as necessary in an attempt to lessen the burden of the application process. I cannot improve services unless I am made aware of problems/concerns. I am very open to any suggestions you might have regarding the processes within the Board of Optometry office. We are working toward an informative web page and welcome any suggestions for additional information that you would like to see included on that page. Please take some time and go to www.ecodev.state.mo.us/pr/optom.

Pamela Groose
Executive Director
State Board of Optometry

Continuing Education Reporting Method

By now you should have received the official notification of the change in the reporting method of continuing education hours to the Board of Optometry office and a copy of the current rule regarding Annual License Renewal. If you did not receive the letter of May 3, 1999, a reporting form, and a copy of the rule, please call our office and one will be mailed or faxed to you.

This reporting method is intended to reduce the number of reporting problems for both you, the licensee, and the board office. The reporting form should be completed by the licensee and mailed or faxed to the board office after all required continuing education hours for the current reporting period have been obtained. Do NOT mail or fax the form after each course obtained but mail or fax the form after all 8 hours have been received and recorded on the form. You are no longer required to provide the Board with a certificate verifying attendance at the approved program.

It is important to remember that the rule does require that the licensee maintain the actual record of attendance for two (2) previous reporting periods, in addition to the current reporting period. The Board will periodically audit the licensee's reporting forms to verify that the continuing education information the licensee provided to the Board on the form is accurate. An audit would require that the licensee produce the actual attendance records. Those records would then be matched to the information provided on the form by the licensee. If there are discrepancies, the Board will expect the licensee to provide an adequate explanation. The Board can seek disciplinary action against a licensee for failure to cooperate, or failure to produce the required continuing education documentation for inspection, photocopying and auditing.

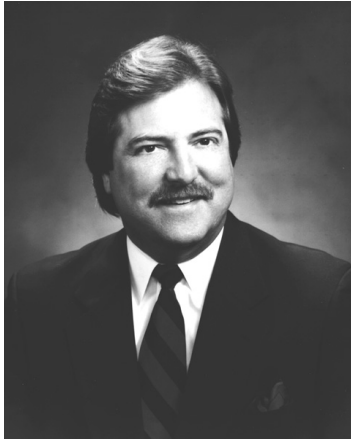
If the reporting form completed by the licensee reflects the licensee's attendance at an approved continuing education program and the licensee has met the statutorily mandated continuing education requirements, a renewal license will be issued upon receipt of the licensee's completed renewal application and payment of the required renewal fee.

NOTE: For any hours received during this current reporting period (September 1, 1998 through August 31, 1999) but no attendance certificate issued, the verification notification received from our office will be acceptable documentation for your files. It is not necessary for you to contact the provider and request an attendance certificate.

Please remember that it is no longer a requirement of the providers to submit a list of Missouri attendees to the Board office. This makes it even more important for you to make sure you maintain complete records of your attendance at the Continuing Education offerings in the event of an audit.

You will receive the continuing education reporting form for 9/1/99 to 8/31/00 with your 11/1/99 to 10/31/00 license.

Message from the Division Director



Through team input and much planning, we started exploring the possibility of updating to a new, more efficient licensing system that will provide more user friendly interfaces and the ability to grow and adapt to new technology. I'm glad to report that we have awarded a contract to provide such a system. Our implementation is scheduled for sometime this fall.

It was brought to our attention last year that our current licensing system would experience problems with the transition from the 1900s to the year 2000 – known to us as “Y2K”. This causes incorrect results when the difference between dates is calculated and when dates are compared or sorted.

The backbone of the new system is already Year 2000 compliant and the final cost of the system is one-third of the cost to correct our existing system. We are very lucky, in effect killing two birds with one stone. Therefore, the “Y2K” will not effect your regulator.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Randall Singer".

Randall Singer
Division Director

Web Sites of Interest

- MO Board of Optometry – www.ecodev.state.mo.us/pr/optom
- Department of Health – www.health.state.mo.us
- AOA – www.aoanet.org
- BNDD direct access to Application for Controlled Substance Registration – www.health.state.mo.us/graphics/580-2322.pdf
- BNDD direct access to registrant listing – www.health.state.mo.us/ResourceMaterial/BNDDLlisting.htm
- COPE Qualified Courses – www.iabopt.org/copesearch/copecourse.asp
- Continuing education search engine – www.optometryce.org
- Guide to Prescribing, Administering & Dispensing Controlled Substances in Missouri – www.health.state.mo.us/publications/taskforce.html

A Guide to Prescribing, Administering and Dispensing Controlled Substances in Missouri

January, 1999

Prepared and distributed by the Missouri Task Force on Misuse, Abuse and Diversion of Prescription Drugs

This document can be accessed in total via the internet by going to www.health.state.mo.us/publications/taskforce.html. Anyone needing a copy but who is unable to access this document via the internet should call the board office at 573/751-0814, and request a copy.

Lapsed Licenses

The following list contains the names of optometrists who did not renew their Missouri optometry license for the period of November 1, 1998 through October 31, 1999. The purpose of publishing this list is to alert licensed optometrists of those who may be practicing without a current and valid license. An attempt has been made to notify every person on this list of the status of their license. If there is anyone on this list who is believed to be practicing in Missouri, please notify the State Board of Optometry office immediately.

William J. Adams Paul S. Mann
 Tad D. Baker Eugene F. Meier
 Anthony D. Bailey Dale M. Mills
 Louis N. Bono Delicia A. Morris
 Ken (Keny) D. Brantley Robert R. Ream
 Gregory J. Bruening Loren S. Reimers
 Robert C. Cable Kirsten Klauss Reynolds
 Gurpreet K. Deol Raymond A. Ring
 Russell K. Drenon Dean L. Rollins
 Donald J. Eaden Jimmie L. Rose
 Patricia M. Estes Kurt J. Schuebel
 Lori Feezor Gary G. Schwab
 William R. Fugate Anjana Sharma
 Lisa A. Groth Melissa M. Sheppard
 Richard B. Hamm Raymond F. Slane
 Russell W. Hart Paul J. Wesling
 Robert W. Huntington Michael J. Wojciak
 Susan Kovacich Richard C. Wolken
 Jerrold J. Lucas Laura E. Wooldridge
 Robert K. Mack

Arnold Eye Center Receives Second Prize

The 3/22/99 AOA NEWS reported that with more than 30 submissions being judged for the Practice Strategies Optometric Practice Web Site Contest, a MISSOURI optometric practice placed second. Congratulations goes to Arnold Eye Center. David L. Davidson, O.D., Diane G. Wilson, O.D., Jerri L. Bersinger, O.D. and George M. Bohigian, M.D.

If you have not already done so, I encourage you to visit their web site at www.arnoldeye.com.

Complaint Statistics

Number of complaints received 7/1/98 to present: 5

Number closed: 2

Number pending: 3

Number of complaints received 7/1/97 to 6/30/98: 12

Number closed: 12

Number pending: 0

Missouri Controlled Substances Registration

Optometrists who wish to prescribe, administer, dispense, or store controlled substances in Missouri, MUST be registered with the Missouri Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (BNDD), and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Applications for both the Missouri Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (BNDD) and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) can be accessed from the Missouri Department of Health web site at www.health.state.mo.us/LicensingAndCertification/welcome.html. You may apply for both registrations at the same time but BNDD must issue a registration before DEA will issue a registration. The check or money order in the amount of \$30.00 must be made payable to the Missouri Department of Health not to BNDD. You may also contact the Board of Optometry office and a packet will be mailed to you.

ADDITIONAL NOTE: BNDD registration will be changing from annual registration to every three (3) years. The fee is currently \$30.00 per year so you will submit \$90.00 for the three (3) year registration.

Controlled Substances: Update for Optometrists

*Article submitted by Bert McClary, RPh., Assistant Administrator
Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs
Missouri Department of Health*

The abuse of prescription controlled substances is a public health problem and the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (BNDD), an administrative agency of the Missouri Department of Health, was created to address this issue. The BNDD helps to prevent the diversion of prescription controlled substances from legitimate channels of distribution by a closed system of registration, security and recordkeeping. The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) is a federal agency with a similar purpose.

Methods of diversion are numerous and include:

- theft from pharmacies, hospitals or physician's offices;
- falsification of records by nurses, technicians or other employees;
- substitution of another product for the controlled substance in storage areas (e.g. substituting noncontrolled tablets, bottles or vials);
- substitution in the final dosage unit (e.g. replacing the controlled substance in a syringe or vial with sterile saline or tap water);
- forging or altering prescriptions by "professional patients";
- authorized prescribers writing prescriptions in other persons' names for personal use;
- authorized prescribers using professional samples for personal use.

Diversion of controlled substances or other violations of controlled substance law by optometrists in Missouri are rare. Although optometrists in Missouri may not stock controlled substances, other states' requirements vary, and samples of controlled substances have been shipped to Missouri optometrists. It would also be possible for an optometrist to obtain controlled substances through improper prescribing. "Professional patients" may also "scam" an optometrist by feigning a legitimate clinical condition in order to obtain controlled substances.

Optometrists are given statutory authority to prescribe controlled substances by the Missouri controlled substances act, Chapter 195 RSMo. The optometry act, Chapter 336 RSMo, restricts the authority to prescribe therapeutic pharmaceutical agents to optometrists who are certified, limits their use to the treatment of conditions of the eye or ednexa, and excludes the use of injectable agents. A regulation promulgated by the Board of Optometry (4 CSR 210-2.080) further restricts the use of oral analgesics as follows:

- A complete medication history must be taken and optometrists using oral analgesics must be thoroughly familiar with interactions of these drugs and other systemic medications;
- They may be used only for pain of which the etiology can be clearly demonstrated and in which noncontrolled substances would not be sufficient;
- Treatment of ocular pain with controlled substances is limited to 40 hours without referral or consultation with a physician, unless marked improvement in the underlying condition can be demonstrated;
- Only those controlled substances oral analgesics which have been shown to be effective for ocular pain may be prescribed;
- Controlled substance prescriptions may not exceed in number the recommended analgesic dosage for the duration of the prescription;
- Controlled substance prescriptions may not be refilled without further examination and follow-up care; and
- Optometrists may not maintain inventories of controlled substances (including samples) for dispensing or administering.

A controlled substance prescription may be written only for legitimate medical use and in the usual course of professional practice according to both state and federal controlled substance laws. The BNDD would refer to the above statutes and regulations in making a determination regarding controlled substance prescribing by an optometrist. Maintaining a patient medical record documenting the use of a controlled substance is also considered to be a professional practice standard.

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Meeting Schedule for the Remainder of 1999

The Missouri State Board of Optometry is scheduled to meet on the following dates:

October 9, 1999

This meeting will be held at Tan-Tar-A in Osage Beach, Missouri. The October 9 meeting is scheduled in conjunction with the Missouri Optometric Association's annual convention. The meetings generally begin at approximately 8:30 a.m. and end at approximately 3:00 p.m. The public is invited and encouraged to attend the open session of any board meeting. The open agenda is available for public distribution prior to the scheduled meeting of the board. For a copy of the agenda call the board office at 573/751-0814 or visit the web page at ecodev.state.mo.us/pr/optom.